



December 18, 2018

Re: SJR O, SB 763, SB 931, SB 932

Dear Chairwoman Cox and members of the Appropriations Committee:

mParks – Michigan Recreation and Park Association is the voice of Michigan's parks and recreation community. mParks is committed to proving parks and recreation matter; that they improve quality of life and contribute enormously to our economy. mParks provides advocacy, resources, and professional development opportunities to a devoted and diverse membership of park and recreation agencies, professionals, vendors, and advocates.

As part of a larger conservation coalition working directly with the Governor and Senator Casperson, mParks is dedicated to helping ensure that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and State Parks Endowment Fund are both utilized how the citizens of Michigan intended when they voted to protect these funds in the constitution.

mParks offers our full support of SJR O, SB 763, SB 931 and SB 932.

According to a recent statewide survey conducted by the Michigan DNR, the most significant recreational need in the state is local parks and trails. By lifting the 25% cap and allowing for up to 75% of the Fund to be used for development, the MNRTF Board, and the Legislature, would be in a much better position to address those vital needs.

mParks is committed to working with a broad array of conservation groups from around the state to help educate the citizens of Michigan about this important proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution and appreciate the committee's prompt action on this legislative package.

Clay Summers
Executive Director
mParks – Michigan Recreation & Park Association